**European History 724**

**Enlightenment Salon**

**Nov 27 and Nov 28**

On November 27 and 28, you are invited to join your fellow students for a discussion in a salon setting. \*

You will research and prepare to be one of the philosophes, monarchs or scientists from the list below.

* Prepare a visitor card and a representative item for your philosophe, monarch or scientist
* Prepare a short speech and prepare to discuss during our salon the topics listed below from the perspective of your philosophe, monarch or scientist. You will be the person, act like the person.

You will research your person and prepare:

1. **A visitor card** (like a business card) – hand written is fine. It will include your name, basic biographic info, and a quote from your person that summarizes them.
2. **An item** that represents your person – choose any object, item, thing that summarizes or represents your person, on the back of your visitor card, briefly explain your item.
3. **A speech** of less than 60 seconds – introduce yourself to the room, explain your basic biographic info, tell the room about the topic(s) from the list below that are most important to you, and explain your item
4. **Discussion Topics:** You should be prepared to discuss any or all of the following topics during the salon:

Topics for discussion (not all apply to all people):

* The Ancien Regime and Social hierarchy, Inequality in society, slavery, serfdom, do you think all men are created equal, all classes, both genders?
* Religious toleration, organized religion (is it beneficial or harmful), deism, atheism, should we take the bible literally?
* Economic matters – what is the best way to organize the economy, what about taxes,
* Scientific discoveries
* Divine right of kings, best types of governments, the role of the monarch and the purpose of the government
* Women’s suffrage, women’s education, women’s roles in society
* What can be done to promote human progress, to make lives better for mankind?

\*The following excerpt defines the meaning of salons:

“The **Republic of Letters**, which formed during the second half of the 18th century in France, was made up of men, the ***philosophes,*** and women, the ***salonnières***, who played corresponding but not equal roles. The *philosophe's* and the *salonnières* worked together to achieve the ends of philosophy broadly set up as the project of the Enlightenment. Their base was the Parisian*salons,* where networks of social and intellectual exchange were developed to connect Paris, the capital of the Enlightenment and the City of Light, with the rest of France.

The *philosophe’s* who had rejected the academy and the university as the institutional bases for their Republic of Letters turned to the Parisian *salons* to continue their conversations and practices. The *salonnières* served to listen attentively to the *philosophe’s* and fill in during the silences of the conversation if needed.

**A main purpose of the *salons* of Paris for the *salonnières* during the Enlightenment was to "satisfy the self-determined educational needs of the women who started them"** [(Goodman, 42)](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/courses/rschwart/hist255-s01/paris_homework/biblio.html). For the*salonnières****,*** the *salon* was a socially acceptable substitute for the formal education denied to them. Most parents at this time saw no reason in educating their daughters and even if they did, there were no institutions in which to do so.

Under the direction of the *salonnières*such as ***Madame Geoffrin***, Mademoiselle de Lespinasse, and Madame Necker***,***the *salon* was transformed from a noble, leisure institution into an institution of the Enlightenment.”

You will randomly select one of the following Enlightenment philosophes, salonnières, scientists, or monarchs to study:

**Philosophes and salonnieres**

1. John Locke
2. Thomas Hobbes
3. David Hume
4. Montesquieu
5. Rousseau
6. Madame Geoffrin
7. Denis Diderot
8. Immanuel Kant
9. Francois Quesney
10. John Smith
11. Voltaire
12. Mary Wollstonecraft

**Scientists**

1. Galileo Galilei
2. Tycho Brahe OR Johannes Kepler
3. Sir Isaac Newton
4. Rene Descartes

**Monarchs**

1. Frederick II of Prussia
2. Catherine the Great
3. Joseph II of Austria
4. Charles III of Spain
5. Gustav III of Sweden

**Grading** is based upon your (this is a test grade):

* Speech and comment contents (clear, covers all relevant topics, covers topics more than superficially)
* participation in class (comment, represent your philosophe, monarch or scientist, stay on task, no side conversations)
* Business card (representative quote, accurate bio info)
* Item and your explanation (clearly represents your philosophe, monarch or scientist, creative)

If you miss class you will have until December 3 to write a four-page paper on your person using your research and addressing the topics from the list above.